(c) by when remaining fishermen are likely to be brought back in the country;

(d) whether most of the fishermen detained in the Pakistani jails belong to Maharashtra State; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the enquiry conducted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)) : (a) According to available information, the number of Indian fishermen held in Pakistani custody, after being apprehended by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency, during the last three years, is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 40 |
| 1998 | 187 |
| 1999-till 29-4-2000 | 168 |

In addition, 19 Indian fishermen were pushed from Iran to Pakistan in 1999 and thereafter held in Pakistani custody.

(b) During the same period, the release and repatriation of 570 Indian fishermen to India has been secured. This figure includes Indian fishermen apprehended prior to 1997 and thereafter held in custody by the Pakistani authorities.

(c) Government is in continuous contact with Pakistan through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of the remaining fishermen.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

**Annual Growth rate of Agricultural production**

†546. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set a target of 4.5 per cent annual growth rate of agricultural production in the country during the coming years;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have made any study of growth-rate of annual production of last decades at the time of setting up a target for future; and

(d) if so, annual growth-rates of last five decades, decade-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Five Year Plan adopted by the National Development Council in it's meeting held on 19th February, 1999 has adopted targetted increase in value of agricultural output (excluding forestry) at the rate of 4.5 per cent per annum during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002).

(c) Past growth in agricultural production is one of the variables that is studied at the time of setting the target growth rate in the Five Year Plan.

(d) In the Ninth Five Year Plan document, the target of 4.5 per cent per annum increase in the value of agricultural output translates to 3.9 per cent annual rate of growth in Gross Value addition in agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

The decadal growth rates of Gross Value Added in the last five decades are given below:—

| Period | Growth rate (% per annum) |
|---|---|
| 1950s | 3.07 |
| 1960s | 1.80 |
| 1970s | 2.07 |
| 1980s | 3.33 |
| 1990s (upto 1996-97) | 3.14 |

**Loss of Life and property in Kandla**

*547. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat requested that an inquiry commission should be set up for an in-depth study of huge loss of life